

relates to the 'Owls of the Nearctic Region' (pp. 157-192, with numerous half-tone illustrations), and the second is a 'List of the Birds living in the New York Zoölogical Park, December 31, 1906' (pp. 193-212).¹ (See below, under 'Notes and News.') Mr. Beebe treats first of owls in general, their structure, relationships and adaptations; then especially of the owls of North America, by groups or genera, enumerating the species, their ranges, and their leading characteristics and ways of life. We here meet for the first time, we believe, the adoption of the generic name *Otus* for the Screech Owls, in place of *Megascops*, in accordance with a recent and as yet unpublished ruling of the A. O. U. Committee on Nomenclature.² J. A. A.

Woodruff's 'The Birds of the Chicago Area.'²—The territory here considered includes all of Cook and Du Page Counties and the northern part of Will County, Illinois, and the northern part of Lake County, Indiana, or "an area about 50 miles square." An introduction of 24 pages describes the topographic and climatic conditions of the region, certain localities of special interest, with comment on certain extralimital species, and on migration. Then follows the list, very fully annotated, including the citation of authorities for the rarer records; the manner of occurrence is stated, often with reference to former conditions when the species was more abundant. In this connection Mr. E. W. Nelson's 'Birds of North-eastern Illinois,' published in 1876, is drawn upon at length, with great advantage. A short paragraph is usually devoted to the general range of the species outside of Illinois, based mainly on the ranges given in the A. O. U. Check-List or Mr. Ridgway's 'Birds of North and Middle America.' The classification and nomenclature of the A. O. U. Check-List being avowedly followed, considerable space under each species is rather wastefully devoted to synonymy.

The list has evidently been prepared with great care and can hence be safely taken as authoritative. It contains a large amount of conveniently arranged information about the birds of the 'Chicago Area,' both past and present. The number of species listed is apparently not stated. An extended — probably nearly complete — bibliography, and separate indexes to the scientific and common names, fittingly close this very creditable piece of work. Nine of the twelve half-tone plates illustrate special features of the country; the other three give views from life of a Bonaparte's Gull, a young Black Tern, and the Belted Plover, with its nest and eggs.—J. A. A.

¹ See, however, Stone, Auk, XX, 1903, pp. 272-276.

² The Birds of the Chicago Area. By Frank Morley Woodruff. Chicago Academy of Natural Sciences. Bulletin No. VI of the Natural History Survey. Issued April 15, 1907.—8vo. pp. 1-221, with 12 half-tone plates. Price, 75 cents.